

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

*B<sup>1</sup>*  
*7.8*  
8. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ In a chemical oxygen generating core having at least one top layer of an oxygen generating composition and at least one bottom layer of an oxygen generating composition for producing a breathable gas upon ignition of the composition, the improvement in the at least one top layer of an oxygen generating composition comprising:

from zero to about 15% by weight of a metal powder as a fuel;

*P. 10 N.M* greater than 5 to about 20% ~~about 0.1-20%~~ by weight strontium peroxide as a catalyst, a chlorine suppressant, a reaction rate modifier, and a secondary oxygen source;

✓ from zero to about 15% ~~about 0.5-4%~~ by weight of a cobalt oxide as a catalyst;

from zero to about 5% of a binder; and

the remainder of an oxygen source selected from the group consisting of alkali metal chlorates, alkali metal perchlorates, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 9-10 (cancelled)

11. (Original) The oxygen generating composition of Claim 8, wherein said oxygen source is an alkali metal chlorate selected from the group consisting of sodium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, lithium perchlorate, and mixtures thereof.

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cont.

12. (Original) The oxygen generating composition of Claim 8, wherein said metal powder is selected from the group consisting of tin powder, iron powder, titanium, copper, aluminum, and magnesium, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The oxygen generating composition of Claim 8, wherein said binder is an inorganic binder selected from the group consisting of glass powder, glass fiber, ceramic fiber, bentonite, kaolinite and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ In a chemical oxygen generating core having at least one top layer of an oxygen generating composition and at least one bottom layer of an oxygen generating composition for producing a breathable oxygen gas upon ignition of the composition, the improvement in the at least one top layer of an oxygen generating composition comprising:

from zero to about 12% by weight of metal powder as a fuel;

*Nm* greater than 5 to about 6% ~~about 1-6%~~ by weight strontium peroxide as a catalyst, a chlorine suppressant, a reaction rate modifier, and a secondary oxygen source;

from zero to about 12% ~~about 0.5-4%~~ by weight of cobalt oxide as a catalyst;

from zero to about 5% of a binder; and

the remainder of an oxygen source selected from the group consisting of alkali metal chlorates, alkali metal perchlorates, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 15-16 (cancelled)

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Cont.

17. (Original) The oxygen generating composition of Claim 14, wherein said oxygen source is an alkali metal chlorate selected from the group consisting of sodium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, lithium perchlorate, and mixtures thereof.

18. (Original) The oxygen generating composition of Claim 14, wherein said wherein said metal powder is selected from the group consisting of tin powder, iron powder, titanium, copper, aluminum, and magnesium, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) The oxygen generating composition of Claim 14, wherein said binder is an inorganic binder selected from the group consisting of glass powder, glass fiber, ceramic fiber, bentonite, kaolinite and mixtures thereof.